

Petition P4-0011, filed on behalf of Louisiana crawfish producers.

Background:

On December 4, 2003, the Federal Register published notice that a group of crawfish producers in Louisiana had filed a petition for trade adjustment assistance on behalf of all producers of freshwater crawfish in Louisiana.

The petition indicated that the marketing year impacted by imports of Chinese crawfish tail meat was January - December 2002. The 5-year base period used for the purpose of a price comparison was 1997-2001.

Analysis:

USDA evaluated producer prices for farmed and wild harvest crawfish production in Louisiana compiled by the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business at Louisiana State University. This data is published in the Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Report. Based on this data, USDA found that in 2002, Louisiana producers received an average price of \$0.759 per pound. The average price for the 5-year base period was \$0.952 per pound. The 2002 price was 79.7 percent of the 5-year average, indicating a decline of 20.3 percent from the base period.

USDA analysts also reviewed official U.S. import data for crawfish and crawfish products. Between 2001 and 2002, the volume of imports declined by 27 percent.

Reason for denial of petition:

To qualify for TAA, increases in imports of articles like or directly competitive with the agricultural commodity must contribute importantly to the decline in price. Because imports during the marketing year did not increase but declined, the petition was denied, and notice was published in the Federal Register on January 15, 2004.